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19 January 1981

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 19 January 1981

The Director was in the chair.

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The Director highlighted events at the White House during the past 24 hours and initiated discussion of the hostage situation and the various aspects of the agreements negotiated with the Iranian government.

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The Director asked Clarke to get the NFAC/Iranian analysts together to see about doing a background paper analyzing alternative U.S. policies towards Iran. The Director thought that this would be a very useful paper for the new Administration. The Director said that because we cannot expect a pro-Western or pro-U.S. policy from Iran we have to determine what our options are. Mr. Carlucci suggested that part of the paper deal with the Iranian strategic importance to the U.S. McMahon recommended that NFAC should factor in Soviet reaction to the hostage release.

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The Director noted that he presented the CIA seal to the President on 18 January. The President told him that he was upset by continuing criticism of CIA analysis, and commented that he was supportive of CIA analysis and said that more times than not CIA was proven right.

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Lehman cited a memorandum from former DCI Walter Bedell Smith which called for net assessments of U.S. and Soviet strategic capabilities.

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Clarke announced that he had established a Central American task force to monitor the situation in that region.

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Briggs noted the Director has approved the separation of an employee from the Agency and though the situation is unfortunate, this action will be welcomed within the ranks of the DDO and elsewhere.

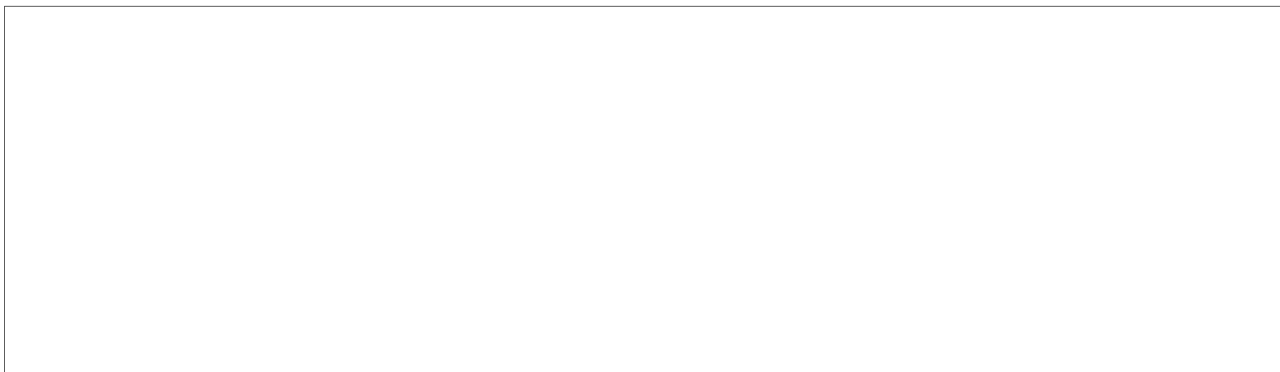
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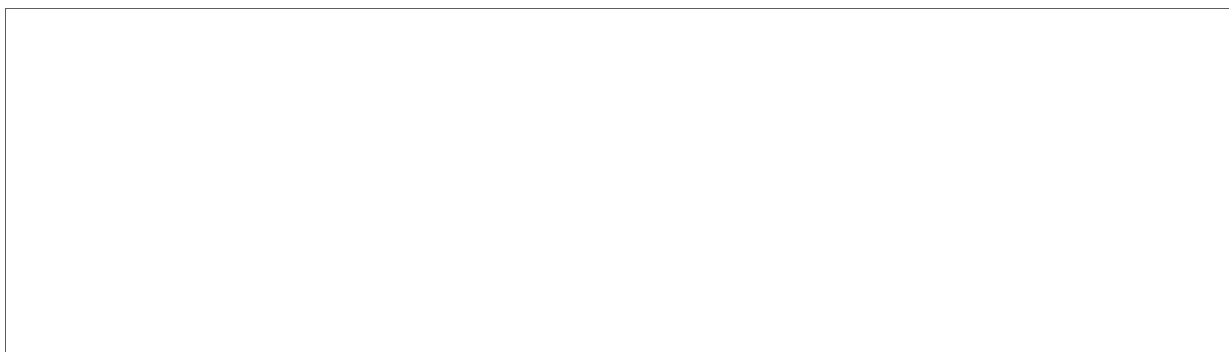


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Mr. Carlucci said that he will be Acting DCI from noon 20 January until Mr. Casey is sworn in. 

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